

Do You Have The Training You Need To Be Safe And Effective?

Cross-discipline, awareness level training is a critical component of response to a natural disaster or terrorist attack. Washington State's Homeland Security Institute, under the direction of the Emergency Management Division, has developed four awareness-level online courses: Personal Protective Equipment, Operational Safety and Security, Mass Decontamination, and WMD Awareness. All of the courses have gone through the rigorous Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) review process, and are approved for use of DHS funds for overtime/backfill support.

The 4 courses are self-paced, flexible, available to users 24/7, and free. They are designed to be completed all at once or when you find time. The online program keeps track of your progress and a certificate is available for print and email once the course has been successfully completed. Completions are included in the state data base and you can forward your certificate immediately to a supervisor or training manager. Each course is divided into lessons. Each course takes between 1 - 4 hours to complete depending on your background. A 5th course, "National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS ICS)", is currently being reviewed by ODP and FEMA as an option for IS 700 equivalent.

Personal Protective Equipment



People have used personal protective equipment (PPE) for centuries to protect themselves while they work. For example:

- Blacksmiths have always used a leather apron
- Gloves, mask, and sterile equipment are used in the hospital
- Firemen wear heavy coats and special helmets

Personal protective equipment today, as in the past, makes working safer and you more productive. The use of any type of personal protection equipment requires basic training. The overall goals of training are to protect the wearer from physical hazards (biological, chemical, radioactive) and to prevent injury from improper use or equipment malfunction. This course is focused on the uses and limitations of PPE--at an awareness level.

Each discipline of first responders has assessed the hazards to determine the appropriate PPE for first responders. PPE might include coveralls, helmet, leather gloves, breathing apparatus, and protective clothing.

Operational Safety and Security



The Operational Safety and Security awareness focuses on applying the risk management model to health and safety aspects of emergency services operations. Content areas include the emergency services fatality and injury problem; the risk management process; safety responsibilities of

discipline members; regulations, standards, and policies affecting emergency services safety; and appropriate documentation and recordkeeping pertaining to safety and security.

“An informed and proactive citizenry is an invaluable asset for our country in times of war and peace. Volunteers enhance community coordination and action, whether at the national or local level. This coordination will prove critical as we work to build the communication and delivery systems indispensable to our national effort to detect, prevent, and, if need be, respond to terrorist attack.” *The National Strategy for Homeland Security*

Learners are exposed to a number of safety and security concepts, including adversary and threat identification, the operations security process, threat analysis, communications security, risk assessment, and effective countermeasures.

Mass Decontamination



A great deal of mass decontamination equipment has been purchased by WA counties and regions in recent years. Unfortunately, supporting training has not kept pace. Decontamination is a very well understood technical expertise so much so that specialized teams have been created to respond to such events. Often, highly specialized teams cannot respond in the first critical hours of an incident leaving the response to possibly unprepared first responders.

All emergency responders should receive awareness-level training in the process of mass decontamination. The Rapid Response System (RRS) relies on the immediate initiation of decontamination by local first responders, who are supported by a phased decontamination response that provides the local jurisdiction with the ability to access, decontaminate, and treat exposed persons, including those who cannot extricate themselves or be safely extricated. The course applies to both CBRNE attacks, as well as natural disasters (such as avian flu) and industrial/ transportation accidents. The course addresses the aspects that you, a first responder, might be faced with when you are the first one to arrive at the scene. What will you find? What will you feel? What actions can you safely take? This course will help you be better prepared to understand the emotional stresses impacting responders and contaminated victims, procedures and approaches for decontamination and what factors need to be considered.

WMD Awareness (AWR-160 Equivalent)



The Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Awareness Level Course is targeted to individuals likely to witness, discover, or respond to a WMD incident and who have been trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities of what they see. Learners will be able to identify the components of terrorism, understand characteristics most likely to be present at an incident of terrorism, identify warning signs that indicate a possible incident of terrorism; understand incident priorities common to both incidents of terrorism and non-terrorism, and be able to relate differences and similarities in responder actions to incidents of terrorism and non-terrorism.